

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): ~~"SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS"~~, characterized in that it comprises A secretion suctioning device for an intubated or tracheostomized patient, which comprises:

- (a) ~~a suctioning valve (1) defined by a body (2) provided with~~ comprising:
  - (i) a main body defining an elongated internal chamber therein; a chamber (3), where
  - (ii) a hollow connection having a first end disposed outside the main body, and a second end disposed inside the main body and communicating with the internal chamber;
  - (iii) an internal channel having a first end communicating with the internal chamber, and a second end;
  - (iv) an on/off button;
  - (v) a selecting obstruction device disposed in the internal chamber and having an upper end attached to the on/off button, a lower end, and a passage opening therebetween, and wherein the selecting obstruction device is operable to be moved reversibly from a first position where the passage opening provides a communication between the connection and the internal channel to a second position where the

selecting obstruction device blocks the communication between the connection and the internal channel; and is assembled (4), formed by a pin (5) triggered by an upper button (6), which acts against the action of a spring (7); the chamber (2) comprises a channel selector (71) below pin 5, which is designed to be occupied by said pin inferior rim (72), such condition occurring when suctioning valve is triggered (1), being that the angle between the chamber (3) and a connection (11) causes the o-rings (8) to always be in a sealed position, either the valve (1) being under its triggering or rest condition; the pin (5) is provided with ring neckings (9) on which the sealing o-rings are assembled (8), which are assembled above and below a passage opening (10) through which the secretion passes in the vacuum application moment; such a device is provided with an internal channel (13), that crosses the suctioning valve (1) body (2), said body (2) is further provided with

(iv) a rim connector attached to the second end of the internal channel and disposed outside the main body; connection (14) provided externally with a thread (15), to which is threaded a tightening element (16), used to produce the

- (b) a hollow interconnection component having a first end releasably attached to the rim connector, and a second end (17) coupling, used to produce the plastic sheating (18) imprisonment, said interconnection component (17) basically comprises three regions defined as anterior (19), median (20) and posterior (21), each one of which with a specific object, being that the anterior region

~~(19) is provided with ring ribs (22) preferably in three, that act as a sealing means regarding the internal wall-external connection (14); the median region (20) incorporates an outlining-external wall, with an adequate profile to tightly bind the tightening element (16), allowing the interconnection component (17) to be dislocated axially, thus producing its fixation along the suctioning valve (1) body (2); posterior region (21) incorporates a trunk configuration ending (23), that acts as an adequate place for the plastic sheathing positioning (18), being that said ending (23) the positioning place for a retention ring (24), that guaranties sealing and tight positioning of said sheathing (18); the interconnection component (17) internally receives the rim of a probe (25), that, depending on its gauge may be assembled either on a tie rod (26), and has the objective of allowing probe use (25) with more than a external diameter measure; the device is further provided with a terminal (30), equipped with a casing (31), where a set of sealing rings (32) is assembled, which is formed by two stiff rings (33), between which a flexible ring (34) is assembled; said casing (31) is closed by a component (35) that adequately presses the ring-set (32) and also acts as a plastic sheathing anterior rim (18) fixture, being that for the latter object it is provided in said component (35), a trunk ending (36) with a configuration identical to the other trunk ending (23); the trunk ending (36) receives a retention ring (37), identical to the other retention ring (24), assembled on the plastic sheathing (18) opposed rim~~

(c) a hollow terminal having a first end, and a second end;

- (d) a hollow, elongated probe having a first end received within an inside wall of the interconnection component, and a second end slidably received within the terminal;
- (e) a sheathing for the probe and having a first end attached to the second end of the interconnection component, and a second end attached to the first end of the terminal;
- (f) a sphere valve having a first end releasably attached to the second end of the terminal, and a second end; and
- (g) a hollow patient/ventilator connection attached to the second end of the sphere value.

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~"SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS"~~, as claimed in 1, characterized in that The device of claim 1, wherein the suctioning valve (1) may be conveniently locked, which prevents the pin (5) from being inadvertently triggered, accidentally communicating the vacuum in said device.

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~"SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS"~~, as claimed in 1, characterized in that The device of claim 1, wherein the first end of the connection (11) incorporates of the suctioning valve has a progressive staggering (12), which allows the use of varied diameters of for receiving vacuum lines of varied diameters.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~"SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS"~~, as claimed in 1, characterized in that

The device of claim 1, wherein the probe has a sleeve like tie rod ~~the tie rod (26) is provided with a external diameter standardized to allow the introduction into an interconnection component (17), in addition to being provided with two internal diameter measures to receive the probe (25), being able to use two different probe gauges with the use of the tie rod (26), and two other different gauges without the use of the above mentioned tie rod (26).~~

Claim 6 (currently amended): "~~SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS~~", as claimed in 1, characterized in that The device of claim 1, wherein the probe (25) is provided with a graduation (27), which is representative of its measure length, being that on the above mentioned probe (25) a limiting and marking way (28) is assembled, which may be dislocated along said probe has a graduation, and a marker is slidably mounted on the probe.

Claim 7 (currently amended): "~~SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS~~", as claimed in 6, characterized in that ~~the limiting and marking means (28) is provided with opposed protuberances pair (29), which act in order to produce a relative locking effect on the external wall of the probe (25), said opposed protuberances pair (29) thus guaranties a determined effort value to produce the limiting and marking means (28) dislocation~~ The device of claim 6, wherein the marker has a pair of opposed protuberances that engage the probe and provide a locking force.

Claim 8 (currently amended): "~~SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS~~", as claimed in 1, characterized in that The device of claim 1, wherein the terminal (30) is provided with has an instillation route (38) defined by a radial tubular projection (38) that starts radially extending from the terminal wall (30), and receives the tubular sector coupling (40), which incorporates a closing cap (41); the

~~terminal (30) presents a connection (42) that externally receives a tightening element (43), used to produce the coupling of sphere valve (45) body (44).~~

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~"SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS"~~, as claimed in 8, characterized in that ~~the instillation route (38) is provided with~~ The device of claim 8, wherein the tubular projection has a diaphragm (73).

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~"SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS"~~, as claimed in 8, characterized in that ~~the tightening element (43) acts on a thread (46) incorporated in a tubular projection (47) provided on the sphere valve (45) body (44); the sphere valve (45) body (44) is divided into two portions (48) and (49), each one of these incorporating half of the chamber (50) that covers the sphere shaped element (51), which is formed by a central section (52) equipped with a transversal channel (53), and by two supplementary sections (54); the sphere shaped element (51) is driven by an external and upper handle (55) which can be turned along an angular range of 90 degrees between two basic positions, that determine whether the transversal channel (53) is aligned or not with the longitudinal geometric axis of the sphere valve (45) body of the valve (44)~~ The device of claim 8, wherein the sphere valve has a casing, a sphere shaped element disposed in the casing and comprising a central section and two supplementary sections, and a handle connected to the central section, the central section having a transversal channel sized to receive the probe, and wherein the handle is operable to be turned reversibly from a first position where the transversal channel is aligned with the probe to open a passage for the probe toward the patient/ventilator connection to a second position where the transversal channel is not aligned with the probe to close the passage.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~"SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS"~~, as claimed in 10 and 11, characterized in that The device of claim 10, wherein the sphere valve (45) presents has a color code that eases its operational condition visualization, i. e., whether open or closed to the probe (25) passage combination to indicate whether the sphere valve opens or closes the passage.

Claim 13 (currently amended): ~~"SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS"~~, as claimed in 12, characterized in that the color code is defined by the fact that The device of claim 12, wherein the central section (52) present a different coloring from has a color that is different from that of the two supplementary sections (54).

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~"SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS"~~, as claimed in 13, characterized in that in a preferred combination for the sphere valve (45) color code, The device of claim 13, wherein the central section (52) of the sphere shaped element presents a green color is in green color, and the corresponding supplementary sections (54) present a red color are in red color.

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~"SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS"~~, as claimed in 11, characterized in that The device of claim 10, wherein the patient/ventilator connection (56) is provided with a derivation (57) that communicates the has a hollow shift having a first end for communicating with a ventilating equipment to receive an air flow therefrom, and a second end, said connection (56) is further provided with another connection (58) which is and wherein the patient/ventilator

connection further has a connector attached to the second end of the hollow shift for receiving a  
~~connected to the patient's coupling tube.~~

Claim 16 (currently amended): ~~"SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR~~  
~~INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS"~~, as claimed in 15, characterized in that  
~~the derivation (57) is incorporated in a manner as to present~~ The device of claim 15, wherein the  
hollow shift is disposed in an inclination angle that helps maintain of with respect to the patient's  
coupling tube to help maintain the air flow in a non turbulent laminar air flow manner.

Claim 17 (currently amended): ~~"SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR~~  
~~INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS"~~, as claimed in 11, characterized in that  
~~the patient/ventilator connection (56) incorporates sealing rings o-rings type (60), assembled on~~  
~~corresponding terminals (61)~~ The device of claim 16, wherein the patient/ventilator connection  
has a round wall sector for directing the air flow in a smooth and progressive manner.

Claim 18 (currently amended): ~~"SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR~~  
~~INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS"~~, as claimed in 11, characterized in that  
~~the patient/ventilator connection (56) incorporates a round wall sector (62) that deviates the air~~  
~~flow entrance angle in a smooth and progressive manner~~ The device of claim 15, wherein each of  
the first end of the hollow shift and the connector of the patient/ventilator connection has a  
sealing of o-ring type.

Claim 19 (currently amended): ~~"SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR~~  
~~INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS"~~, as claimed in 1, characterized in that  
~~the valve (1) presents a~~ The device of claim 1, wherein the suctioning valve is of an anatomic  
and inclined shape, which provides better suctioning, with less fatigue for the operator, as well as



~~total sealing of the system, being the latter aspect related to the tightening element (16) and the interconnection component (17), thus avoiding the secretion accumulation.~~

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (original): "KIT PROVIDED WITH A SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS", intended for the assembly of a device for the tracheal secretion suctioning of intubated or tracheostomized patients, characterized in that said kit (63) is provided with a package (64) that covers, in addition to the suctioning device, elements that help in its disposal after use, those elements being a plastic sheating (65) and a tube (66), the latter being used to connect both device endings; package 64 presents defined spaces and divided by divisor walls (67), allowing each covered element to occupy a previous studied place.

Claim 22 (original): "KIT PROVIDED WITH A SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS", as claimed in 21, characterized in that it presents a structure (68), where a determined number of packages (64) can be adequately stored, said structure (68) is provided with one or two parallel horizontal bars (69) that act as a hanger for the packings.

Claim 23 (original): "KIT PROVIDED WITH A SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS", as claimed in 22, characterized in the structure (68) incorporates a frontal panel (70) in which the instructions are presented for use of such suctioning device.

Claim 24 (original): "KIT PROVIDED WITH A SECRETION SUCTIONING DEVICE FOR INTUBATED OR TRACHEOSTOMIZED PATIENTS", as claimed in 21, characterized in that it is able to incorporate, separately or jointly, three accessories (F), (F') and (F''), that

respectively represent an endotracheal tube fixture, a humidifying filter, and a secretion collection flask, those being able to occupy a defined space (E) in the interior of the package (64).